

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus including an input operation section through which an input is entered by an operator and a control section for performing prescribed control on said input operation section, said input operation section comprising: an encryption determining section for discriminating data to be encrypted from data input through said input operation section; an encryption section for encrypting the data to be encrypted based on the result of determination of said encryption determining section; and a transmission section for transmitting both the encrypted data and non-encrypted data; wherein said control section performs processing based on the content of non-encrypted data received from said input operation section and at the same time sends encrypted data received from said input operation section to a device having a decryption function.

2. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input operation section has an input operation screen, and said encryption determining section determines whether the input data is to be encrypted, depending upon whether coordinates pressed on the input operation screen exist in a predetermined range or position.

3. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said encryption section converts data, which is input in at least one of said predetermined coordinate range and said predetermined coordinate position on said input operation screen, into data information related to said coordinate range or position, and encrypts the data thus converted by using a predetermined key.

4. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a setting section for dynamically receiving and setting information on a predetermined coordinate range or position on said input operation screen from an external device, wherein said encryption determining section determines whether the input data is to be encrypted, depending upon whether coordinates pressed on the input operation screen exist in

the predetermined range or position set by said setting section.

5. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a setting section for dynamically receiving and setting data setting information from said external device for converting data, which is input in at least one of said predetermined coordinate range and said predetermined coordinate position on said input operation screen, into data information related to said coordinate range or position, wherein said encryption section converts data, which is input in at least one of said predetermined coordinate range and said predetermined coordinate position on said input operation screen, into data information related to said coordinate range or position based on the data setting information set by said setting section, and encrypts the data thus converted by using a predetermined key.

6. (previously presented) An input operation apparatus having an input operation screen for providing information, which is input by an operator through said input operation screen, to an information processing apparatus connected therewith, said input operation apparatus comprising: a setting section for setting data setting information for converting information on a predetermined coordinate range or position on said input operation screen as well as data, which is input in said predetermined coordinate range or position, into data information related to said coordinate range or position; an encryption determining section for determining whether the input data is to be encrypted, depending upon whether coordinates pressed on said input operation screen exist in said predetermined coordinate range or position set by said setting section; an encryption section for converting the input data, which is determined to be encrypted by said encryption determining section, into data information related to said coordinate range or position based on the data setting information set by said setting section, and encrypting the data thus converted by using a predetermined key; and a transmission section for transmitting both the encrypted data and non-encrypted data to said information processing apparatus connected therewith.

7. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus equipped with an input operation section through which an input is entered by an operator and a control section for performing prescribed control on said input operation section, wherein said input operation section comprises: a comparison section for comparing prescribed data being input with prescribed data held by said input operation section; and a transmission section for transmitting the result of comparison made by said comparison section to said control section; wherein said

control section operates to transmit the received comparison result to another device.

8. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus equipped with an input operation section through which an input is entered by an operator and a control section for performing prescribed control on the input operation section, wherein said input operation section comprises: a detection section for detecting an input operation by which prescribed data is input; an encryption section for encrypting prescribed data; and a transmission section for transmitting the result of detection by said detection section and the data encrypted by said encryption section to said control section; wherein said control section controls said input operation section based on the detection result received and transmits the encrypted data received to a device having a decrypting function.

9. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said encryption section converts data, which is input in at least one of said predetermined coordinate range and said predetermined coordinate position on said input operation screen, into data information related to said coordinate range or position, encodes or blocks said data information, and encrypts said data thus encoded or blocked by using a predetermined key.

10. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said input operation section includes a comparison discrimination section for discriminating data to be compared by said comparison section among the data input by said input operation section, and said comparison section performs a comparison of the data discriminated by said comparison discrimination section.

11. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the prescribed data held by said input operation section is stored in a memory in said input operation section.

12. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said prescribed data held by said input operation section is data based on the received data which is sent from an external device while being subjected to encryption.

13. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim

12, wherein said information processing apparatus comprises a decryption section for decrypting said encrypted data.

14. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said input operation section includes an encryption section for encrypting the data input from said input operation section by a common key by means of which said received data sent from said external device has been encrypted, and said comparison section makes a comparison between these encrypted data.

15. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said input operation section includes an encryption section for encrypting the data input from said input operation section by a common key by means of which said received data sent from said external device has been encrypted, and said comparison section makes a comparison between these encrypted data.

16. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input operation section has an input operation screen, and the data, which is discriminated by said comparison discrimination section and subjected to the comparison processing by said comparison section, is input in at least one of a predetermined coordinate range and a predetermined coordinate position on said input operation screen, and is related to said coordinate range or position.

17. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said data setting information received from said external device is encrypted, and said input operation section includes a decryption section for decrypting said encrypted data setting information.

18. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising: a storage section for storing a plurality of mutually different pieces of data setting information; and a setting section for selecting and setting prescribed pieces of data setting information among said plurality of pieces of data setting information on said input operation screen.

19. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim

1, wherein a key for encrypting said data and a key for decrypting said encrypted data as necessary are formed based on prescribed data which is input through said input operation section.

20. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input operation section comprises an unauthorized conduct prevention device.

21. (previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said prescribed data is data for which security is required, and includes at least one of personal secret information of an operator such as a personal identification number, a credit card identification number, etc., and an encryption/decryption key.